

MAR 20 1925

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✓ WILLIAM TELL ✓

✓ Photoplay in 12 reels ✓

Adapted by Emil Harder from

Schiller's Historical Drama "Wilhelm Tell" ✓

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)
Sunshine Film, Inc. of U.S. ✓

MAR 20 1925

Washington, D. C.

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Washington, D. C.

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William Tell - 12 reels

Respectfully,

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the receipt thereof.

MAR 23 1925

Fulton Brylawski

"WILLIAM TELL" (or THE BIRTH OF SWITZERLAND)

By Emil Harder



THE first inhabitants of Switzerland were living in caves and later on in small huts built near lakes upon strong poles or pillars. These poles were rammed into the ground in the water, so that the wild animals were prevented of reaching the people and disturbing them, in other words, for protection. The descendants of the original Swiss people lived in, so to say well built houses and in the twelfth century, at which time our story happened, the Swiss were already known as well-cultivated. The Swiss, or as they were called, the shepard-people were an absolute free community and recognized only God as their master and needed not fear any monarch, be it an emperor or king.

After the death of Emperor Rudolph of Hapsburg, and his son Albrecht had succeeded him, a very hard time started for Switzerland, for the reason that Emperor Albrecht wanted to subdue Switzerland, as he did with other neighboring countries.

The consequences of this attempt was, that the Swiss people convened at the city of Brunnen (in the year 1291) and formed a confederation for mutual protection and defence. A man by the name of Attinghausen undertook to go to Emperor Albrecht to plead for the freedom of his country. The answer given to Attinghausen was a very harsh one, saying that the Swiss should become his subjects, thus sacrificing their freedom. This insinuation was strongly and

unanimously rejected and the answer to Albrecht was: "We want to be free as our forefathers were." The emperor evidently not pleased with this, sent his bailiffs Gessler and Landenberg to take charge and to subdue and oppress the Swiss people.

Both bailiffs made as we say "a thorough job" of this and went so far as to install sub-bailiffs, to oppress and torment the people.

The most befallen were Walter Fuerst, Werner Staufacher and Arnold Anderhalden. These three men, known in history as the three "Eidgenossen," were the head of an assembly of thirty other men, who met on the Ruetli on the 1st of August, 1307, and swore a solemn oath to drive out the bailiffs on New Year's morning, 1308.

Here is the period where the more than well known tale of William Tell takes place, who in the meanwhile killed one of the bailiffs, namely Gessler. And according to their oath on the day set forth, Landenberg and his accomplices were expelled.

Emperor Albrecht, of course, was furious about this act of "insubordination" and gathered an immense, well equipped army in order to punish the Swiss people, but did not reach his zeal, as his own nephew, Duke Johann of Schwaben, assassinated him. Albrecht's eldest son, Friedrich, succeeded his father as emperor and ordered his brother Leopold to invade Switzerland to punish it.

Heinrich von Huenenberg, an Austrian subject, had frequently to call on Landenberg, the bailiff, and met there a girl named Marie Hardegg. He fell in love with this girl

and this love was reciprocated by her. It is self-evident that the girl's people did not consent to a love affair between her daughter and an Austrian. Unfortunately, Landenberg himself loved Marie, too, and was for that reason very jealous of Heinrich. After Landenberg had been expelled he had pretty Marie kidnapped and hidden in a secret place. When Heinrich came to see his sweetheart he was very much maltreated by Marie's people, because they mistook him for the kidnapper.

Later on Heinrich found out that his Marie had been kidnapped and therefore the parents had a valuable assistant in helping to find their daughter and promised Heinrich their consent, if he would find her. All his efforts to that respect were in vain and finally the day arrived when he had to go to war and fight against his sweetheart's people. Making a comparison between the immense and well equipped army of Leopold and the handful of Swiss he abandoned almost all hope.

During his service in the Austrian Army, Heinrich found out that Leopold intended to advance via Aegeri, passing Morgarten toward Schwyz. In order to warn at least Marie's relatives and friends, Heinrich wrote the words "Main Battle at Morgarten" on a slip of paper, attached it to an arrow and shot this missile to the Swiss camp. This message was picked up and the Swiss felled trees and prepared large rocks at Morgarten, which were rolled from the mountains upon Leopold's army passing by, thus nearly annihilating the whole force. The warriors not hit by the trees and rocks partly were drowned in the nearby lake and the rest deserted.

The bailiff Landenberg was also hit by a tree and when a

rock came rolling down the mountain it was Heinrich who saved the bailiff from immediate death by pulling him aside. But fate had reached him, for the tree struck him hard enough. Feeling his end near and being thankful to Heinrich for his noble deed by trying to save him from death, he told the latter where Marie was.

Heinrich found and married Marie and they lived happily many years thereafter.

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